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Reagan Saddles Up

The time for savoring victory is over. The President-elect is getting down to business, gathering the strands of power that soon will be his.

Ronald Reagan is moving quickly to assure the American people that there will be plenty of moderates in his administration along with conservatives like himself.

That was the message the President-elect seemed determined to convey as he ended a brief postelection vacation in California and set out for Washington in mid-November to take personal charge of preparations for his assumption of power.

High on his agenda was a briefing by the Central Intelligence Agency plus meetings with President Carter, congressional leaders and other top federal officials.

The transfer of government appeared to be running ahead of schedule. Working out of a makeshift office

about five blocks from the White House, Reagan aides pored over thousands of applications from political job seekers. The goal: Selection of cabinet officers no later than early December and recruitment of 350 key subordinates able to pick up the reins of government promptly on Inauguration Day, January 20.

EXCERPTED